6th Oct. 1820

Friday Night

My dear Miss Keats

First I must return you my thanks for your readiness in accepting me as a correspondent, and then hasten to inform you I have heard of your brother. I received yesterday a letter from Mrs Dilke with part of a letter from a relation of hers copied out for my benefit, as I shall copy it for yours "I have had some very unexpected visitors, Mr Keats and Mr Severn. They had been beating about with a contrary wind ever since they left London, and at last me

put into Portsmouth. I think Mr Keats much better that I expected and Mr Severn said he was sure that notwithstanding the hardships they had undergone, he was much better than when he left London."

I cannot say this news pleases me much, I was in hopes that by this time he was half way to Naples. He left Portsmouth on the 29th of September, the wind being favorable. The next day it again changed contrary to their wishes, but they did not return so it is supposed the captain put to Sea. I had a meſsage for you from your brother before he left Hampsted as well as a lock of hair, both of which I forgot. He particularly requests you will avoid colds and coughs, and desires you never to go into the cold air out of the hothouse. The hair I myself cut off for you. It is very short as he had little at the time. If you wish to use it in a manner that requires more pray mention it, I have some that was cut off two or three years ago I believe, and there is no difference in the color.

The Mrs Cornish I mean visits a family of the name of Goſs or something like it; she told me she was frequently in the habit of calling, with them, on Mr and Mrs Abbey: but if she described her intimacy falſely, all I can say is, that she is a foolish woman and if ever I see her again, I will ask her what she could mean. At any rate, her daughter, whose name is Grace, remembers you about six years ago, but she was so stupid I could make her understand nothing. My Mother is just returned from the city, she saw Mr Haslam who had received a letter from Mr Severn, not dated so late by some days as that Mrs Dilke received: ~~he~~ Mr Keats had had no return of his complaint, and had suffered comparitavely little from sea-sickness. I believe we shall receive that letter or one like it shortly. If that is the case I will send it to you or copy it for you. I will not make any request about a speedy answer but leave it to your own inclinations—

Your affectionate Friend Frances Brawne

[illegible]

[illegible] to you [illegible]

make any [illegible]

but leave it to you [illegible]

Your affectionate [illegible]